

media diversity

Regarding Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcastmedia ownership rules, I offer the following comments.

I believe the FCC should promote more mandatory diversity in the media market if its goal is to promote competition, diversity and localism. I support retaining all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. America needs the opportunity for all ideas to be heard.

The Fourth estate has a proud history of public service, but too little competition in local markets runs the risk of changing the focus to private benefit and limited ideological goals.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity.

Some of the ideas expressed in open media seem off base and often times make me choke on my morning coffee, but I fully support the opportunity for all those views to be heard. The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003, and strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country. The FCC should solicit the widest possible participation from the public, which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

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